



CONTACT:

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Special Education Assistance for Parents in Southern Arizona

TUCSON (October 4, 2012) – More help for families of children receiving special education services will be available in Southern Arizona.

Raising Special Kids, Arizona's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) is expanding services for families in Southern Arizona. PTIs operate under Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which establishes parent training and information centers in every state to provide special education information and assistance to parents of students with disabilities.

For families whose children need special education services this is a welcome development. Julie Braswell reflected on her struggle to find the right educational environment for her daughter who is deaf. "I learned a lot," she said. "We didn't know what we didn't know. When we were talking with the school they were using a lot of terminology we didn't understand."

Each child in public school who receives special education must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) designed by a team that includes parents and school representatives. "Raising Special Kids explained the system and defined terms for us. When they did that, so many other things became clearer to us about the process, and we were better able to represent our child's needs to the school," said Braswell.

Raising Special Kids welcomes Jeanne Hollabaugh and Jill McCollum to the team of Family Support Specialists based in Tucson and providing services to Southern Arizona. Effective October 16th, they can be reached at Telephone: 520-441-4007 or Toll Free: 800-237-3007 or Fax: 520-441-8981.

As a parent-led nonprofit organization, Raising Special Kids has been providing programs and services for Arizona families since 1979. Programs are offered at no charge in English and Spanish. More information about Raising Special Kids can be found at: www.raisingspecialkids.org or call 602-242-4366.

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